

GARBAGE COLLECTION

At a Glance

Percent of Kentuckians participating in garbage collection door-to-door. 80%
collection stations. . . 4%

Estimated amount of garbage disposed of illegally in Kentucky. 1.5 million lbs. day

Number of counties with mandatory garbage collection ordinances 2000. 28

Average monthly garbage collection fee
1994 \$9.64
1999 \$10.58

Indicator 4. Garbage Collection

Background Garbage collection has long been a challenge in Kentucky. In 1991, only 14 counties offered residents door-to-door garbage collection services. Illegal disposal of garbage prompted the state to adopt a universal collection law in 1990 to help curb open dumping. As a result, 109 counties now have door-to-door as their primary means of garbage collection. However, while the law specifies that counties must provide garbage collection services, it does not mandate participation.

Goal Provide for county universal garbage collection programs by July 1, 1994. The collection programs can be door-to-door, direct-haul to a staffed convenience station, or other alternatives approved by the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet.

Progress The primary responsibility for municipal waste collection rests with county governments. Each county has developed ordinances and plans detailing a comprehensive approach to collecting, disposing and reducing solid waste. However, most ordinances are voluntary in nature. To date, only 28 of 120 counties have passed mandatory garbage collection ordinances.

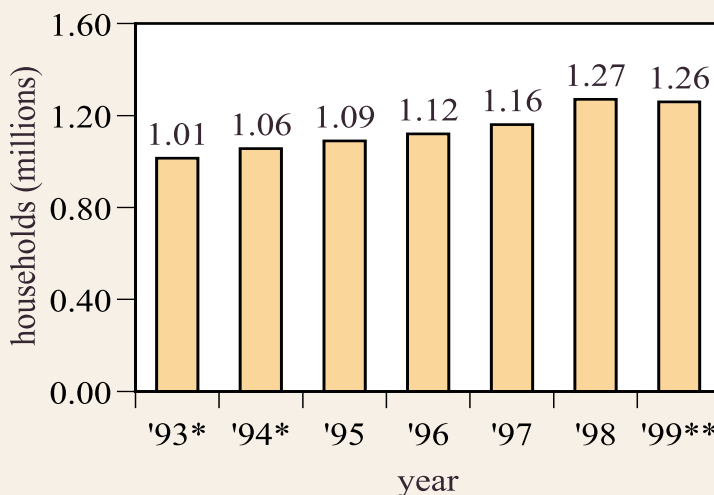
County solid waste reports for 1999 indicate that an estimated 1.26 million households, 80 percent of the state total, participated in a door-to-door garbage collection system. Another 4 percent of the population disposed of its garbage at a collection station, transfer station or convenience center. Data provided by counties reveal an increase of 100,000 households participating in door-to-door garbage collection since 1997.

Garbage collection participation rates vary greatly by county, with 11 counties (Boyle, Grant, Greenup, Hopkins, McCracken, Marshall, Nelson, Owen, Perry, Pike and Todd) reporting 100 percent participation to a low of 22.3 percent participation in Knox County.

During 1994, the average residential garbage collection fee was \$9.69 a month. However, when adjusted for inflation (using the Consumer Price Index for 1999), the 1994 fee was \$10.89 compared to the 1999 of \$10.58 a month, indicating a reduction in garbage collection fee in terms of real dollars.

It is not known how the remaining 16 percent of households disposed of an estimated 3.5

Measure 1. Kentucky Households Participating in Door-to-Door Garbage Collection



WASTE MANAGEMENT

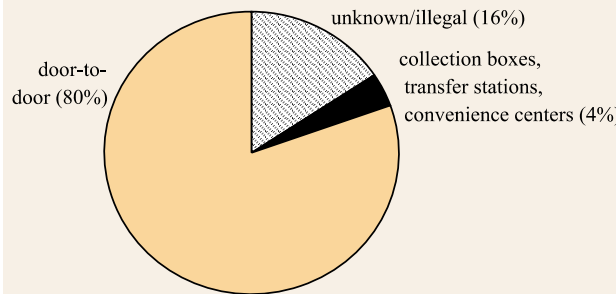
GARBAGE COLLECTION

million pounds of garbage a day, since there is no statewide system in place to track disposal methods other than door-to-door collection.¹ Some of this waste may be properly disposed of, however an estimated seven percent (1.5 million pounds per day) is illegally dumped).

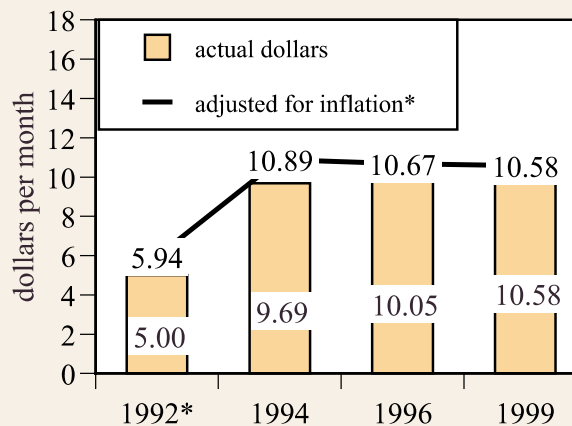
Legislation to require mandatory solid waste collection was considered in the 2001 legislative session. The bill, supported by Gov. Patton, received the support of the House but failed to gain approval in the Senate. Additional legislative measures to require deposits on beverage containers and assess an environmental impact fee on fast food containers also failed to win support.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet is currently developing a statewide solid waste strategy to focus on garbage collection, recycling and education. In addition, the Certified Clean Community Program created by the governor in 2001 to help fund open dump cleanups for those counties who implement mandatory garbage collection.

Measure 2. Status of Garbage Collection in Kentucky (1999)



Measure 3. Average Monthly Residential Garbage Collection Fees in Kentucky



Footnotes

1. Based on 16 percent of Kentucky's population (646,683) disposing of an average of 5.5 pound of municipal solid waste per day.

Measures - notes and sources

Measure 1. *Data represents total collection - door-to-door collection data not available.

**Decline in households participating in door-to-door garbage collection between 1998 and 1999 is attributed to reporting discrepancies by counties, according to the Ky. Division of Waste Management. Source: Ky. Division of Waste Management, County Solid Waste Reports.

Measure 2. *Based on an estimated 1,571,588 households. Source: Ky. Division of Waste Management, State Data Center.

Measure 3. *Adjusted for inflation using the average consumer price index for 1999. Source: Ky. Division of Waste Management, County Solid Waste Reports.